



As part of The Playgarden, Inc.
223 8th Avenue South
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
www.springriverschool.org

**Kindergarten Teacher in an all outdoors Homeschool K-8 Program
inspired by Waldorf Education**

Status: Full Time Salaried for the 2021-2022 School Year

Salary is scaled based on experience, certification, and education

Reports to: Program Director and College of Teachers

About Spring River School

Spring River School, established in 2015 as part of The Playgarden Community, serves approximately 60 students in grades K-6 from all over the Jacksonville, FL area. We plan to add grade 7 and 8 in consecutive years. Beginning in the fall of 2021, Spring River took our programming 100% outdoors on daily field trips and is the only "All Outdoor School" in Northeast Florida. Our families are registered homeschoolers, and we believe that is what serves our community best at this time; however, our strategic plan includes steps toward Florida Independent School status and AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools of North America) accreditation in the future. Our pioneering teachers are supported by an enrollment director, financial controller, committed board of directors and a vibrant community. We offer hands-on creative programming inspired by Waldorf Methods of learning, meeting each family with warmth and joy. Spring River is a Florida non-profit organization with a commitment to serving our families.

Spring River supports and embraces diversity in all of its forms, including differences in ethnicity, cultural and religious heritage, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, geographic origin, and family structure. We provide our students with a rich, inclusive curriculum that reflects the world in which we live and fosters a safe atmosphere where every member of the community is respected, and multiple viewpoints can be peacefully expressed. Diversity within our community is an asset. For this reason, we actively cultivate this diversity in all aspects of school life including the composition of our student body, staff, and leadership. We commit to work through the tensions that arise in the midst of genuine community and to use those tensions as a vehicle to self-reflect critically and fearlessly. We believe this commitment to diversity will help prepare today's children for tomorrow's world.

Our Mission: To encourage independent thought, nourish imagination and cultivate social responsibility.

Our Vision: An educational experience that embodies a reverence and respect for the intellectual, artistic, social, physical, emotional, and spiritual life of each student.

Position Summary

Spring River is seeking a qualified and motivated individual to serve as a Kindergarten Teacher for a class of 5–6-year-old children. Candidate must possess a commitment to personal and professional development and an enthusiasm for collegial work. This person will work as part of

a committed team of teachers and be an active member of our school community. Teachers in our school make a significant commitment to their classes, both in endeavoring to know their individual students well and in bringing a rich joy-filled and life-nourishing environment that will enhance their students' growth and development during the magical years of early childhood. This involves creating a productive relationship with parents, and a cooperative relationship with colleagues. The Kindergarten Teacher will play a vital part in their students' development, setting the standard for their experience of learning and fostering confidence. This level of teaching involves interactive learning with games, artistic activity, visual aids, music, and other tools to keep students engaged and challenged. The teacher will instruct students of varying learning levels.

Classroom responsibilities:

- Arrive on campus each day with time to set up outdoor classroom to prepare for student arrival. Prompt and regular attendance is an essential duty and responsibility of this position.
- Instruct students according to Waldorf Pedagogy, nurturing each child with respect and modeling healthy behavior.
- Plan and develop a Kindergarten Curriculum (a yearly rhythm and curriculum will be provided as a guide), applying curriculum standards, and learning objectives that adhere to Waldorf pedagogy.
- Establish and maintain fair and just standards for student behavior to ensure a supportive and safe social environment.
- Lead the students in daily activities such as circle time, storytelling, finger knitting, movement, watercolor painting, beeswax modeling, gardening, and nature walks, daily chores, and snack.
- Carry out celebrations of festivals and birthdays in a manner relating to the curriculum.
- Develop and maintain a safe harmonious social environment for the students.
- Document and record student progress through the use of narrative descriptions written twice per year.
- Prepare seasonal performances as indicated by the curriculum.
- Direct, supervise, train, and evaluate teaching assistant(s) who support the Kindergarten classroom.

Administrative Responsibilities:

- Track attendance for students.
- Track and Document behavior (per school Discipline policy) as needed
- Communicate with parents weekly via email/newsletter format.
- Attendance and participation in weekly faculty meetings, and two in-service sessions and the beginning and end of each academic year.
- Participate in committee work for the school.
- Participate in parent conferences.

Skills

Teaching requires patience, creativity, a knack for organization and multitasking, and time management. Kindergarten teachers should understand how to communicate objectives to students in a calm manner, using clear and precise language, as well as how to efficiently address behavioral problems and practice positive classroom management. Teachers should also be well-

versed in current teaching trends and approaches, and able to tailor their teaching methods to the needs of a specific individual or class. The Kindergarten teacher must be able to hold confidentiality and professionalism with the parent/teacher bond.

Other responsibilities

- All teachers share responsibility for the well-being of the school. Aspect of this responsibility are:
 - Participate in daily morning Teacher Circle.
 - Service on at least one faculty committee. First year teachers are exempt from this requirement.
 - Be available and willing to participate in the enrollment process of new student in areas such as student interviews, parent interviews, student assessment, and arranging for prospective student class visits.
 - Help to expand enrollment by attending open house or fundraising events throughout the school year.
 - Support currently enrolled families by participating in a parent orientation prior to the start of each class year along with other teachers.
 - Participate in Program Development for the future school year.

Preferred Qualifications

- A deep love for children, respect for parents, enjoyment of working in collaboration with colleagues, joy and enthusiasm in your work, and a commitment to self-development.
- Bachelor's Degree from an accredited university, preferably in Education, Art, or Psychology.
- Hold a Waldorf Certification in Early Childhood by a program recognized by WECAN or be willing to be in and pursuing Certification in such a program before employment begins.
- Strong interpersonal communication skills
- Ability to work effectively with a diverse range of people
- 2+ years previous classroom experience

Physical Requirements: The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by employees of the school to successfully perform the essential duties of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made for individuals with disabilities to perform the essential duties.

- Arrives ready to work at scheduled time and is rarely absent unexpectedly
- Able to have full range of motion to locate children and examine the environment for hazards.
- Position self as needed including bending, crouching, kneeling, lifting, reaching.
- Able to move classroom supplies in and out of building/classroom space each morning/afternoon.
- Able to work in outdoor weather conditions for an extended period of time.
- Actively supervise students with focus even when distractions are present.
- Frequently communicate with students, parents, colleagues, and leadership.

Work Environment

- Beginning Fall 2020, teaching will be 100% outdoors. Some duties are to be done at home on a computer.
- Schedule to be determined on an annual basis, full school calendar to be provided.
- Must agree to sign SR Staff COVID-19 Acknowledgement Form

NOTE: This job description indicates the general duties and physical requirements of work performed by the employee with this job designation. It should not be interpreted or construed as a comprehensive inventory of all duties, responsibilities, qualifications, and physical requirements required of the employee assigned to this job, as these might vary from day to day or as business needs demand.

EOE Statement: We are an equal employment opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law.

It is the policy of Spring River School to provide equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, disability, status as a covered veteran, or any other legally protected status, in accordance with federal and state law, and not to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruitment, hiring, placement, compensation, benefits, promotion, demotion, layoff, termination and all other terms and conditions of employment.